

and which were found to contain carbon dioxide and potassium. On this basis, he considered that potassium carbonate was present, but because the phenolphthalein color was not always marked at first but developed on standing he suggested the possibility that bicarbonate is excreted and changes, by loss of CO_2 , to carbonate. He states that with *Phaseolus multiflorus* "a small quantity of calcium carbonate was found."

The second point to be considered is the *cause* of the alkalinity of the dew.

Mr. Mills' assumption, as expressed in the first sentence in the quotation I have made from his article, is correct to the extent that I considered the presence of calcium and magnesium carbonates and bicarbonates to be at least consistent with the alkaline reaction. The statement of Power and Chesnut that I "was led to conclude that its alkalinity was to be attributed to the presence of the bicarbonates of calcium and magnesium" is not in accord with my original article. The only statement made therein concerning this point, which these writers quote in part, was "the dew gave a reaction alkaline even to phenolphthalein, indicating the presence of soluble hydroxide or salts of very weak acids." This statement was made designedly for the very reason that I did not care to express an opinion as to the specific causes of the alkalinity. The carbon dioxide was found by qualitative tests, but its form was estimated by titration as in water analysis and the alkalinity to phenolphthalein was taken as evidence that some of it was present as carbonate.

That other reacting materials are present, Power and Chesnut have proved by demonstrating the existence in the dew of ammonia and trimethylamine. The presence of these compounds is also consistent with the alkaline condition, but as to whether they or the carbonate constituents are the chief cause of the alkalinity is a point still to be determined.

C. M. SMITH

BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE SPRING MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE regular spring meeting of the executive committee was held at the Cosmos Club in Washington on Sunday, April 26, there being three sessions, which are reported below.

Forenoon Session.—The session came to order at 10:30, with the following members present: Cattell, Fairchild, Humphreys, Kellogg, Livingston, Noyes,

Pupin, Ward, Wilson. Dr. Duggar was absent with valid excuse. The following are the main items of business transacted:

(1) Dr. Cattell was unanimously elected permanent chairman of the Executive Committee.

(2) A resolution was adopted heartily favoring the project to establish a National Museum of Engineering in Washington.

(3) On account of the vacancy occurring in the membership of the executive committee, Dr. F. R. Moulton, of the University of Chicago, was unanimously elected to be a member of this committee for the remainder of the present year. (The term of Dr. Humphreys, now general secretary, was to expire at the end of the Kansas City meeting and Dr. Moulton's election is to complete that term.)

(4) On account of the resignation of Dr. F. G. Cottrell as vice-president for Section M (Engineering) and upon due nomination by the section committee, the permanent secretary was instructed to cast the ballot of the executive committee for Dr. C. R. Richards, president of Lehigh University, to be chairman of the section and vice-president for the section for the current year.

(5) There were elected to fellowship 770 members, distributed among the sections as follows: A, 13; B, 51; C, 19; D, 14; E, 113; F, 128; G, 150; H, 6; I, 1; K, 2; L, 2; M, 122; N, 116; O, 33. (No elections to fellowship had occurred for over a year and the section secretaries had been asked to make a study of their section membership lists with the aim of securing the nomination of members eligible to fellowship but not previously elected. The large number of elections at this time was due mainly to the activity of the section secretaries in this connection.)

(6) The permanent secretary was instructed to present to the executive committee by a mail ballot nominations for fellowship that may be duly approved and sent in by section secretaries before the going to press of the new membership directory, now in preparation, to the end that the committee may act on such nominations in time for the records to be corrected before the directory is printed.

(7) The Georgia Academy of Science, the Indiana Academy of Science and the North Dakota Academy of Science were elected to affiliation with the association, on the basis of the new affiliation arrangement adopted at the fifth Washington meeting.

(8) On its application, the American Society of Parasitologists was elected to official affiliation with the association. According to lists supplied by the society, it has 144 members, 88 of these being members of the American Association, including 49 fellows. The society is therefore to have one representative in the association council.

(9) On its application, the History of Science So-

ciety was elected to official affiliation with the association. According to lists supplied by the society, it has 346 members, 207 of these being members of the American Association, including 147 fellows. The society is therefore to have two representatives in the association council.

(10) On its application, the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi was elected to official affiliation with the association. According to lists supplied by the society, it has 4,671 members, 352 of these being members of the American Association, including 210 fellows. The society is therefore to have two representatives in the association council.

Afternoon Session.—The committee adjourned for luncheon at 1:15 and reconvened at 3:00, with all the members present excepting Dr. Kellogg, who had presented a valid excuse. Dr. Rodney H. True, secretary of the Committee of One Hundred on Scientific Research, was present by invitation. Business was continued as follows:

(11) Dr. A. E. Kennelly was elected to be the representative of the American Association in the Committee on Scientific and Engineering Abbreviations and Symbols of the American Engineering Standards Committee.

(12) It was voted that the president of the association is *ex officio* chairman of the Committee of One Hundred on Scientific Research, and that membership in that committee be for a term of four years, beginning with the present calendar year.

(13) It was voted that the secretary of the Committee of One Hundred be asked to prepare an evening program on the problems of research for a general session at the Kansas City meeting, President Pupin to preside at the session and make the introductory address.

(14) The committee approved the selection of a speaker for the Sigma Xi lecture, to be given under the joint auspices of the association and the Society of Sigma Xi at the Kansas City meeting.

(15) It was voted that an afternoon general session at the Kansas City meeting be under the joint auspices of the association and the American Mathematical Society and that it be devoted to the third James Willard Gibbs lecture, arranged by the American Mathematical Society.

(16) It was voted that an evening session at the Kansas City meeting be devoted to an address by some distinguished man of science from abroad, and that the general and permanent secretaries be requested to arrange for this.

(17) Arrangements were made for the organization of a committee on exhibitions at the annual meetings.

(18) On invitation of Dr. Duggar, chairman of the organizing committee for the International Congress of Plant Sciences, the executive committee expressed

itself as looking with approval upon the proposal to hold sessions of the American Association in connection with the above-named congress, which is to occur at Ithaca, August 16–23, 1926.

Evening Session.—The committee dined together and reconvened for the evening session, with all members present. Business was continued as follows:

(19) The sum of five hundred dollars was appropriated for the American Association table at the Naples Zoological Station, this appropriation to be disbursed from the treasurer's available funds.

(20) The sum of one hundred dollars was appropriated for the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, from the permanent secretary's funds.

(21) The sum of sixty dollars was appropriated for the American Institute of Sacred Literature, from the permanent secretary's funds.

(22) Dr. Humphreys, chairman of the special committee on publications, presented a report on tentative plans for a popular journal under the auspices of the American Association and also presented a memorandum from Dr. Cattell on the ultimate acquisition of the journal *SCIENCE* by the association. The memorandum follows:

It is agreed and contracted between the American Association for the Advancement of Science, incorporated in the State of Massachusetts, and James McKeen Cattell, of Garrison, New York, that on the death of the latter or on his relinquishment of the control of the weekly journal *SCIENCE* for any cause, the journal shall become the absolute and unincumbered property of the association on the following conditions, namely: (1) that the present arrangement between the association and the journal, or some other arrangement adopted by mutual agreement, is at the time in effect; (2) that should Josephine Owen Cattell (who for over thirty years has cooperated in the editorial and business conduct of the journal) survive the acquirement of the journal by the association, she shall be paid annually during her life one half the average net profits of the journal during the five years preceding its acquirement, and (3) that the arrangements for editing, publishing and printing the journal in effect at the time of the acquirement of the journal by the association shall be continued so long and in so far as this is consonant with the interests of the association.

(23) The executive committee unanimously approved of the proposals of the memorandum and authorized the president and the permanent secretary to sign the agreement after it had been put in contractual form. The committee unanimously voted its sincere and hearty thanks to Dr. Cattell for his most generous offer.

The executive committee adjourned at 11:00 p. m., to meet at its regular fall meeting.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,
Permanent Secretary